

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 has been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 3 and 4 were only amended to remove reference numbers which were part of the European patent application claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-6 and 8-12 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 2,806,492 to Becker in view of US Patent No. 4,593,893 to Sutter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7 but stated that claim 7 would be allowable if amended to include the base claim and any intervening claims (Office Action, page 4.) Claim 7 includes the limitation, "securing the adjustment table to the trimming table" and only depends from independent claim 5. The applicant has amended claim 5 to include all limitations of claim 7 and cancelled claim 7. Thus, claim 5 is effectively claim 7 rewritten in independent form. Claims 6 and 8-12 depend from claim 5 and have not been amended. Since claim 5 is allowable as amended, the applicant submits that claims 6 and 8-12 are not invalid under 35 USC §103(a) over Becker in view of Sutter.

The applicant has also added the limitation "securing the adjustment table to the trimming table" of claim 7 to claim 1. Claim 1 is similar to claim 5 but does not include the limitation "securing the planar object to the alignment table. The applicant respectfully submits that this limitation is not necessary since the weight of the object may be sufficient to hold the object to the alignment table during the trimming process. For the same reasons discussed above in claim 5, the applicant submits that claim 1 is not invalid under 35 USC §103(a) over Becker in view of Sutter.

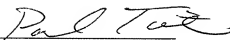
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (415) 705-6377 if there are any outstanding issues or questions which can be resolved to allow this application to be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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